

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
ARIZONA STATE SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND  
UNCONFIRMED BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

April 14, 2009  
Middle School/High School Building  
ASDB Phoenix Campus  
Phoenix, Arizona

1. Call to Order

Board President Sherri Collins called the meeting to order at approximately 4:06 p.m.

Present: Michael Williams, Orlenda Roberts, Sherri Collins

Present via speakerphone: Mary Michaelis, Cliff Rowley

Also Present: Lisa Hudson and Kim Anderson of the Attorney General's Office

Connected via speakerphone during course of meeting: Ray Mungaray at approximately 4:10 p.m., Sami Hamed at approximately 4:20 p.m., Kacey Gregson at approximately 4:40 p.m.

Absent: Frank Hernandez

2. President's Report/Summary of Current Events

President Collins reported she researched several concerns raised at the last Board meeting and clarified: (1) The ASDB Board is not required to follow Robert's Rules. (2) An abstention means that a Board member is not here to vote and is not counted in the vote. (3) A substitute motion is similar to a striker used in the legislative process where the substitution motion replaces main motion, a vote is taken on the substitute motion first. If the substitute motion does not pass, then the Board returns to the main motion for vote. (4) Call for the question does not mean the Board must stop debate. (4) Since some of Robert's Rules conflict with open meeting law, she will use Robert's rules very loosely, using common sense.

President Collins noted that public comment would be allowed only on agenda items. She explained how flags are used during the course of the meeting and noted use of flags with majority of Board members on the phone will be a challenge. She also noted the presence of two representatives from the Attorney General's Office.

3. Public comment on agenda items only

Sherri Collins allowed speakers 3 to 4 minutes since there were only four requests for public comment. Michael Williams announced the public speakers as follows:

Faye West, ASDB Agency Administration employee, spoke in support of the issuance of a contract to Robert Hill. Ms. West noted that she has served two years as Educational

Consultant at ASDB and in her role has found Mr. Hill to hold students and their education as the highest priority. She has found him to be supportive, knowledgeable, and always asks the question, is this good for kids before he proceeds. As an educator he is networked and nationally connected to the deaf community. He also is nationally recognized as a consultant and has been asked to go to other states and agencies to help them look at their programs. This relationship serves our students because ASDB teachers are kept informed about the latest teaching strategies and have a nationally recognized and respected individual as their Assistant Superintendent. Ms. West has the utmost respect for Mr. Hill's personal and professional integrity and asked the Board to have Mr. Hill continue as ASDB's Assistant Superintendent

Rob Voreck, parent, spoke regarding the petition that was released to the ASDB Board by the Deaf community. Mr. Voreck reviewed the three requests made of the ASDB Board as stated in the petition: (1) The Board to stop the infighting and think about what is best for the students; (2) the Board to renew the contract of the Assistant Superintendent Robert Hill; (3) the Board not to renew the contract for Principal Brad Knudson. Mr. Voreck noted that 113 individuals, current and former students, current and former staff, parents, and concerned Deaf community members signed the petition.

Dave Karas, PDSD employee, spoke regarding Brad Knudson stating that Mr. Knudson arrived in the middle of the new construction/building process as PDSD and that he had complete confidence in Mr. Knudson in working with the legislators in this process> Mr. Karas noted that half of the campus was relocated during construction, and once completed, staff again had to relocate. At the same time all this is occurring the Principal was also acting as MS Supervising Teacher. Enrollment continues to increase approaching 290 students that are more than the combined student enrollment of the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind in Tucson. Mr. Karas stated this has been a unique experience for Dr. Knudson.

Susan Parr, ASDB DVR employee, noted that she also provides direct service and consultation to students on the PDSD campus and she is Dr. Knudson's partner. Ms. Parr expressed her belief that she has the most credible input into this situation because she knows Dr. Knudson personally and professionally better than anyone in the room. She noted what she learned from her professional relationship working for Dr. Knudson in two different capacities prior to becoming involved in a personal relationship. As his partner, she is witness to the time, energy and inordinate hours he gives the School. She stated that Dr. Knudson's integrity, calm leadership and dedication to every student at PDSD are what is needed to bring this school to its ultimate potential.

Sami Hamed connected via speakerphone at approximately 4:20 p.m.

Linda Kennedy, ASDB employee, stated she has worked over 30 years in many different roles at ASDB, and expressed concern with the possible loss of the leadership integrity of Dr. Knudson who truly cares about the children. As an ASDB Outreach Coordinator in these uncertain times, she would like to assure families that ASDB is a stable environment for their children to come to.

3. Approval to Send Board President Sherri Collins to Education Leadership Summit in New Mexico

***It was moved by Michael Williams, seconded by Orlenda Roberts, and carried with a vote of 5 in favor (Ray Mungaray, Michael Williams, Cliff Rowley, Orlenda Roberts, Sherri Collins) and 2 opposed (Mary Michaelis, Sami Hamed) that the Board approve the funds so that Sherri Collins can attend the National Conference in New Mexico.***

Discussion Highlights: Background information on Summit, importance of Board involvement on a national level in deaf education, \$700-\$1,000 costs for Board President to attend, Robert Hill only staff person to attend due to budget restrictions, use of a distance web alternative this year due to financial challenges, a statewide team to be established upon return, Board members, staff and parents who have attended in past years, fund source/number, denial of former request by Mary Michaelis to attend a conference she felt beneficial to her as a new Board member, equivalent statewide conference for the VI community that Mr. Mungaray attends, severe budget cuts to the Commission prevents financial assistance.

Sherri Collins, Sami Hamed, Harold Hoff, Robert Hill, Ray Mungaray, Mary Michaelis, and Michael Williams spoke to the issue.

Sherri Collins called for a roll vote, but due to confusion of what Board members thought they were voting on, Sherri Collins recalled the vote.

5. Superintendent's Intent to Offer/Not Offer FY 2010 Employment Contract to Robert Hill for Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action– (Exhibit 2)

***It was moved by Sherri Collins, seconded by Michael Williams and carried with a vote of 6 in favor (Kacey Gregson, Ray Mungaray, Michael Williams, Cliff Rowley, Orlenda Roberts, Sherri Collins) and 2 opposed (Mary Michaelis, Sami Hamed), it was moved that the Board renew Mr. Hill's contract.***

Michael Williams: Acknowledged receipt of a petition signed by many individuals in support of Mr. Hill and thanked parents and the teachers who made their feelings known on this matter. Appreciate the time people took to write in.

Kacey Gregson connected via speakerphone at approximately 4:40 p.m. Sherri Collins restated the motion on the table for Ms. Gregson who just joined the meeting to renew the contract.

Ray Mungaray: I received some information from some people against voting for Mr. Hill, but those people did not send any written documentation and the documentation that we got in support of Mr. Hill was so overwhelming.

Mary Michaelis: Stated she was making the comments for the record. Personally I have nothing against Mr. Hill. As a matter of fact, you'll probably get a giggle out of this one because I thought he was the Superintendent for my first two Board meetings. I kept going up to him and saying, are you Mr. Hill, are you Dr. Hoff. But it has nothing to do with that. I don't arbitrarily make decisions. I keep telling you that and you all have the same information I have. It is probably because I read everything I get and everything I receive. I think you all know that I'm a person who if I don't have information in front of me, I ask for

it. I have been concerned about the number of grievances that appear before us. It is a high number that makes it to the Board and usually that does say there is some sort of a problem at the lower level. They shouldn't get this far so I spend a lot of time and have spent a lot of time looking at the grievances and 14 pages of one, there were at least 20 opportunities to mediate vs. to get defensive is kind of the feeling I have. I know that there was discussion about whether or not I was concerned about returning of phone calls. That certainly wasn't anything I had heard. I don't know why the comment but I would imagine that you are pretty busy and I give tribute to the number of people who absolutely give credit to you. This has had a real toll on my health. This has been one of the hardest things I have dealt with in a long time so I have spent numerous hours, including Easter trying to make sure I would make the right decision based upon the information that I have. And you ask how come it didn't come out before. We didn't have an opportunity for it to come out before. Had we have done the Superintendent's evaluation every six months like we were suppose to, that is probably where I would have addressed this. Not waiting until this point and time. Thank you.

Cliff Rowley: I have read many of the comments from the Deaf community, parents, staff, teachers, and faculty. I do appreciate their feedback and that they care so I'm ready to vote. Thank you for all your efforts.

Sami Hamed: I want to thank the public for their participation in this matter. No matter what their comment, whether good, bad, pointed or not, I'm glad that they took their chance to have a say. Therefore, I'm ready to vote as well.

Michael Williams apologized to Mr. Hill for having to go through this and stated he hoped Mr. Hill realizes how many people really think he is doing a good job.

6. Superintendent's Intent to Offer/Not to Offer FY 2010 Employment Contract to Bradley Knudson for Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action-- (Exhibit 2)

***It was moved by Michael Williams, seconded by Orlenda Roberts, and carried with a vote of 6 in favor (Kacey Gregson, Ray Mungaray, Michael Williams, Cliff Rowley, Orlenda Roberts, Sherri Collins) and 2 opposed (Mary Michaelis, Sami Hamed) that the Board approve the issuance of notice of intent not to offer a 2010 employment contract to Mr. Bradley Knudson.***

7. Adjournment

***It was moved by Sherri Collins, seconded by Orlenda Roberts, and carried with a vote of 7 in favor and 1 no response (Mary Michaelis) that the Board adjourn the meeting.***

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50 p.m.

**EXHIBIT 2**

A.R.S. 15-1325(D) requires that on or before April 15, preceding the expiration of contracts of persons contracted by the superintendent, that the superintendent, acting on behalf of the Board of Directors, gives written notice to contracted employees of the Board's intention to offer or not to offer employees a new contract.

	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>NAME</b>
1.	Assistant Supt Curriculum and Instruction	Robert Hill
2.	Principal-ASB	Vacant
3.	Principal-PDSD	Bradley Knudson
4.	Regional Director-DVR	Bea VanMantgem
5.	Regional Director -NCR	Jane Krahe
6.	Regional Director-SWR	Wemme Walls
7.	Facilities/Loss Prevention/Business Manager-Phx	Terry Pritchard
8.	Performing Arts Center Manager	Brandon Howell
9.	Facilities Manager-Tucson	Debra Currin
10.	Principal-ASD	Nancy Amann
11.	Regional Director -SER	Vacant
12.	Director of Instructional Support Services	Marcy Albert
13.	Assistant Principal-PDSD	Lisa Svenningson